

Drug Prevention Program Planning Grants Awarded

INDIANAPOLIS (May 4, 2007) – Twelve community agencies in thirteen counties will each receive a \$165,000 grant from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration for drug prevention planning. The grants are part of a statewide initiative to improve drug prevention by focusing on evidence-based, data-driven and outcome measured programs.

Announcing the grants, Mitch Roob, Secretary of FSSA, commented, “One of the critical elements of our Mental Health Transformation Plan that we began in October, 2005, was to establish measurable performance criteria for programs and providers. The planning process funded by the drug prevention grant is a model that we will apply to all prevention programming. Mental health and substance abuse funding must support effective programs for our clients.”

Over the past year, the FSSA Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) has conducted a statewide review of drug abuse and addiction. Extensive amounts of data were analyzed to establish priorities for local prevention programs by the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), chaired by Dr. Eric Wright of IUPUI. Based on the data, the SEOW recommended the following priorities to be funded.

- Prevent and reduce underage drinking and binge drinking among 18 to 25 year olds
- Prevent the first use and reduce the use of cocaine among 18 to 25 year olds
- Prevent and reduce the use of methamphetamine among black youth and among white women and men ages 18 to 44 years old

Community agencies and organizations were invited to apply for a planning grant to address one or more of these issues in their counties. DMHA received 25 applications and selected the following:

<u>Community Agency</u>	<u>Priority</u>
Partnership for a Drug Free Wayne County	Cocaine
Delaware County Coordinating Council	Alcohol
Vigo County LCC	Alcohol
Monroe County Asset Building Coalition	Alcohol
Drug Free Marion County	Alcohol
Davies-Greene Methamphetamine Alliance	Methamphetamine
Porter-Starke Services, Inc.	Alcohol
Geminus of Lake County	Cocaine
Healthy Communities Initiative of St. Joseph County	Cocaine
Drug and Alcohol Consortium of Allen County	Alcohol
Lake County Drug Free Alliance	Alcohol
Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Tippecanoe County	Alcohol

The first phase of the two phase community project is a planning phase inclusive of a needs assessment, strengthening prevention resources, and writing a strategic plan. Upon the state's approval of the community's Strategic Plan, the communities will enter into the Program Implementation Phase which involves implementation of an evidence-based, data-driven program and the evaluation of the program.